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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY East Germany

## REPORT

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The following is a summary of information on Soviet and East German military activities observed prior to 27 February 1955:

A. Soviet Activities:

1. General: The intensive training and firing activity by artillery, AAA and tank units was continued into the second half of February. Additional incoming shipments of new-type tanks and of new 122 mm field guns were noted. The first indications that surplus tanks were being returned to the USSR were noted in mid-February. 25X1

2. First Guards Mechanized Army:

Firing details of the 8th Guards Mechanized Division and the 11th Guards Tank Division rotated between their posts and the Koenigsbrueck training grounds between 9 and 18 February. The Nachrichten Schule (1521) in Koenigsbrueck was only lightly occupied between 10 and 19 February, units of the 11th Guards Tank Division apparently being engaged in winter exercises near the post. Day and night firing of medium caliber artillery took place at the Koenigsbrueck training grounds between 10 and 19 February. Two trains went from Meissen to Jueterbog on 20 and 21 February. Tank firing details of the tank regiments of the 9th Tank Division were observed in Zeithain between 3 and 9 February.

3. Second Guards Mechanized Army:

A firing detail of the 2nd Light Artillery Brigade was entrained in Doeberitz on 19 February. Four trains occupied by light and medium AAA firing details of the 9th Guards Tank Division were sent from Neustrelitz to Forst Zinna and Jueterbog between 15 and 22 February. On 15 February, two trains with 14 x 122 mm field howitzers and 13 x 76.2 mm field guns of the 1st Mechanized Division returned from Jueterbog to Doeberitz. Fifteen tanks with five bogie wheels, 8 x 122 mm field howitzers, 37 mm AAA and other guns of the 12th Guards Tank Division were entrained in Jueterbog on 13 February. Simultaneously, a meeting of high-ranking officers took place in the Schuetzenhaus. Between 8 and 22 February, the division conducted intensive training, including tank firing, in the

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southeast sector of the Wittstock training grounds and at the training grounds of the Gentzrode garrison.

#### 4. Third Guards Mechanized Army:

A train with eight AT guns and 26 trucks of the 9th Mechanized Division went from Jueterbog to Cottbus on 15 February. One train was dispatched from RBD Cottbus to Jueterbog on 17 February. During a firing exercise by heavy weapons and light AA guns, conducted between 14 and 20 February, the Jueterbog training grounds were off limits.

#### 5. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army:

One train to Forst Zinna and two to Jueterbog-Altes Lager, possibly carrying units of the 63rd AAA Division, were dispatched from Fuerstenwalde on 17 February. On 16 February, 16 amphibious cars with track-laying chassis were detrained at Eberswalde from trains which had come from Frankfurt/Oder. The vehicles were probably intended for the 3rd Engineer Regiment which now has approximately 30 vehicles of this type. A train with 6 x 100 mm AT guns of the 71st Light Artillery Brigade went from Bernau to Jueterbog-Altes Lager on 17 February. Fourteen 152 mm howitzers of the brigade were returned from Jueterbog to Bernau on 19 February. A train loaded with eight canvas-covered heavy AT guns and 4 x 76 mm AT guns was dispatched from Fuerstenwalde to Bernau on 19 February. Units of the 7th Guards Mechanized Division held night exercises in the Rosengarten area, west of Frankfurt/Oder, between 14 and 19 February. On 12 and 13 February, artillery night firing took place at the new Briesen training ground, west of Frankfurt/Oder. A train carrying a tank firing detail and five rocket launchers of the 10th Guards Tank Division went from Jueterbog to Satzkorn on 17 February. The following shipments carrying firing details of the 6th Guards Mechanized Division and the 25th Tank Division rotating between their posts and the Templin training grounds were observed between 18 and 23 February:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Load</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
18 February	80 armored personnel carriers of the 6th Guards Mechanized Division	Eberswalde	Templin
18 February	11 T-34/85 tanks, three tank chassis and six armored personnel carriers of the 25th Tank Division	Prenzlau	Templin
22 February	10 tanks of the 25th Tank Division	Templin	Kaulsdorf

#### 6. Third Shock Army:

Elements of the 399th RL Regiment of the 79th Rifle Corps returned to Stendal from firing practice in Letzling Heath on 16 February. Artillery units of the 207th Rifle Division returned in two shipments from Altengrabow to Stendal on 13 February. Firing practices were conducted in Letzling Heath by artillery units of the 19th Guards Mechanized Division between 13 and 16 February. Eighteen rocket launchers of 10th Guards RL Regiment of the 9th Rifle Corps were transferred to the Hagenow area, presumably for firing exercises. On 22 February, two shipments with about 36 x 122 mm field guns of the 4th Artillery Brigade were entrained at Gardelegen. The guns were presumably being returned to Schwerin after having been used in firing exercises in the North Sector of Letzling Heath. A column consisting of 6 x 122 mm howitzers, 6 x 85 mm AT guns, 6 x 57 mm AT guns, 6 x 120 mm mortars, eight AAA guns, four field kitchens and 80 trucks with about 800 men was observed entering the Flak Kaserne (5641) in Wismar on 19 February.<sup>1</sup>

#### 7. Eighth Guards Army:

Four medium AA guns of the 2504th Guards AAA Regiment of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division were entrained in Jena on 11 February. Six rocket launchers and two JS-2 tanks were entrained there on 16 February. On 18 February, 12 AT guns of the 87th Gun Artillery Regiment were detrained in Plauen, moving subsequently to the Koenig-Georg Kaserne (8443).

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8. Fourth Artillery Corps:

A train carrying elements of the 124th Heavy Howitzer Brigade went from Altengrabow to Brandenburg on 12 February. On 20 February, five trains with troops of the 34th Artillery Brigade were dispatched from Altengrabow to Wildpark. Four shipments with units 32nd AAA Division were sent from Forst Zinna to Frankfurt/Oder on 16 February. Two trains with elements of the division were sent from Frankfurt/Oder to Jueterbog on 18 February. One shipment, presumably carrying elements of the 2nd Guards AAA Division, was dispatched from Kroepelin to Wuensdorf on 24 February. Elements of the 4th AT Brigade from Prora conducted firing exercises at Prora between 7 and 11 February.

9. Gun and Tank Shipments:

a. Guns: Two shipments with a total of 56 heavy AT guns went from Frankfurt/Oder toward Berlin on 10 and 12 February.<sup>2</sup>

b. Tank Exchange: A train with 21 RRY cars was dispatched from Frankfurt/Oder to Satz Korn on 19 February; 21 T-54 tanks assigned to the 10th Guards Tank Division, were unloaded in Satz Korn on the next day. The division has thus received a total of about 50 T-54 tanks since 4 November 1954. A train with 20 SSY cars went from Frankfurt/Oder toward Cottbus on 22 February. One or two shipments with cargo exceeding the scheduled load were dispatched from Frankfurt/Oder to Meinsdorf on 23 February. The 7th Guards Tank Division has thus received at least four shipments with approximately 50 T-54 tanks since 4 November 1954. A shipment with 22 covered tanks and one with 20 covered tanks without guns went from the direction of Cottbus to Frankfurt/Oder on 14 and 17 February respectively.<sup>3</sup>

B. KVP Training:

Individual instruction was being given to recruits. Winter exercises at company and battalion level and firing practices were being held by most units near their posts. Demonstration exercises, witnessed by high-ranking KVP officers, were held in the Ahlbeck-Karpin area by elements of the 2nd Mechanized Regiment of the Eggesin Division on 12 February. An artillery unit from Oranienburg conducted an exercise near Schmachtenhausen on 17 and 18 February.

Comments:

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1. Elements of the 288th Guards Rifle Regiment and the 199th Gun Artillery Regiment returning from firing practices at Letzling Heath or Die Lewitz Firing Range southeast of Schwerin.

2. [redacted] appearance of new AT guns with the 38th and 20th AT Brigades and the 76th Artillery Brigade.

3. This is possibly the first return shipment to the USSR of tanks which have become surplus as the result of the arrival of the T-54's.

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